

(2) encourages all people of the United States—

(A) to learn about the history of the Purple Heart Medal;

(B) to honor recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; and

(C) to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for people who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 741. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 860, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

SA 742. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 178, to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

SA 743. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

SA 744. Mr. PORTMAN (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 339, to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

SA 745. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BROWN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2288, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SA 746. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 582, to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 741. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 860, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 40, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 41, line 23.

SA 742. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 178, to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases; as follows:

On page 12, line 3, strike "individual" and insert "individually".

Beginning on page 23, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 24, line 15 and insert the following:

(1) Federal Government efforts to monitor—

(A) the exploitation of older adults of the United States in global drug trafficking schemes and other international criminal enterprises;

(B) the extent to which exploitation of older adults of the United States by international criminal enterprises has resulted in the incarceration of these citizens of the United States in foreign countries; and

(C) the total annual number of elder abuse cases pending in the United States; and

(2) the results of intervention by the United States with foreign officials on behalf of citizens of the United States who are elder abuse victims in international criminal enterprises.

SA 743. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 8, line 20, strike "; and" and insert a semicolon.

On page 8, line 23, strike the period at the end and insert "; and".

On page 8, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

"(E) promote United States values, especially respect for all persons and freedoms of religion, speech, and the press.

On page 12, line 14, strike "; and" and insert a semicolon.

On page 12, strike line 17 and insert "educational systems; and".

On page 12, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

"(C) there is the greatest opportunity to reduce childhood and adolescence exposure to or engagement in violent extremism or extremist ideologies."

SA 744. Mr. PORTMAN (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 339, to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 19, and all that follows through the end and insert the following:

(B) by striking "ending on December 31, 2019." and inserting "ending on December 31, 2019, except that for fiscal year 2017 an additional 350 permits shall be made available for extension of existing permits, expiring after the date of enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act through September 30, 2017, of which no fewer than 60 shall be reserved for healthcare practitioners and technical operations (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 29-0000 or any successor provision), and no fewer than 10 shall be reserved for plant and system operators (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 51-8000 or any successor provision)."

SA 745. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BROWN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2288, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of deci-

sions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REFORM OF RIGHTS AND PROCESSES RELATING TO APPEALS OF DECISIONS REGARDING CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(34) The term 'agency of original jurisdiction' means the activity which entered the original determination with regard to a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

"(35) The term 'relevant evidence' means evidence that tends to prove or disprove a matter in issue.

"(36) The term 'supplemental claim' means a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary filed by a claimant who had previously filed a claim for the same or similar benefits on the same or similar basis."

(b) NOTICE REGARDING CLAIMS.—Section 5103(a) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking "The" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (3), the";

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i) by striking ", a claim for reopening a prior decision on a claim, or a claim for an increase in benefits;" and inserting "or a supplemental claim;"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) The requirement to provide notice under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a supplemental claim that is filed within the timeframe set forth in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 5110(a)(2) of this title."

(c) MODIFICATION OF RULE REGARDING DISALLOWED CLAIMS.—Section 5103A(f) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking "reopen" and inserting "re-adjudicate"; and

(2) by striking "material" and inserting "relevant".

(d) MODIFICATION OF DUTY TO ASSIST CLAIMANTS.—Section 5103A of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsections:

"(e) APPLICABILITY OF DUTY TO ASSIST.—(1) The Secretary's duty to assist under this section shall apply only to a claim, or supplemental claim, for a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary until the time that a claimant is provided notice of the agency of original jurisdiction's decision with respect to such claim, or supplemental claim, under section 5104 of this title.

"(2) The Secretary's duty to assist under this section shall not apply to higher-level review by the agency of original jurisdiction, pursuant to section 5104B of this title, or to review on appeal by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

"(f) CORRECTION OF DUTY TO ASSIST ERRORS.—(1) If, during review of the agency of original jurisdiction decision under section 5104B of this title, the higher-level adjudicator identifies or learns of an error on the part of the agency of original jurisdiction to satisfy its duties under this section, and that error occurred prior to the agency of original